

**Executive Committee
Commission on Aging
October 21, 2010**

Meeting Notes

Attending: Elaine Binder, Tammy Duell, John Honig, Vivien Hsueh, Alan Kreger, Marcia Pruzan, Odile Saddi, Beth Shapiro, Spencer Schron, Jack Sprague. Bob Tiller, Judy Welles, Grace Whipple

Topic	Discussion	Follow-up/next Steps
September minutes		Reviewed and approved.
Committee Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aging in the Community meeting 	Grace, Spence, Pazit, Beth, and Vivien attended an October 20 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major focus was on the community and transportation issues. Beth hopes that the committee will develop a transportation proposal for the COA endorsement. A Federation of Villages is being formed in this area. A Regional Center Aging in Place symposium for about 100 people took place as well at which Jay made a presentation about the difficulties inherent in meeting needs of both vulnerable and vital senior populations. The Committee is working to establish a regular meeting date and time, and additional COA members are invited to participate. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication and Community Outreach 	Judy Welles reviewed the C&CO's strategic plan, which recognizes limitations posed by scarce resources. Key audiences are decision makers and stakeholders; messages involve the growth of the senior population in the county, and the role of the COA. A variety of approaches is being considered that includes work and outreach on selected topics (such as the COA Call to Action) via PIO, the media, stakeholders, use of the Senior Website, Facebook, in-person meetings and presentations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spence will distribute a draft letter planned for stakeholders for Executive Committee comment.

	<p>The Committee has drafted a letter for stakeholders, which will be shared with the Executive Committee for comment. Spence described plans to reach out to and broaden the list of stakeholders, develop an agenda that invites consideration of their priorities, and encourage stakeholders to become part of an effective coalition with the COA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees might invite select stakeholders be invited as appropriate to COA committee meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tammy reported that the committee wishes to invite Steve Galen, CEO of the Primary Care Coalition to make a presentation. George Leventhal chairs the County's CHIP Committee and considers CHIP an endeavor of major importance to the County. The CHIP Website is nearly complete and should be online in December. The County will begin promoting the website with a formal launch in May. CHIP contains 100 health indicators (not limited to seniors). Because of lack of resources and availability of data, at this time the information is available only at the County level, not at sub county levels as originally envisioned. Ruth Martin will speak about CHIP at the H&W December meeting. The End of Life Coalition is looking at different bills and will make recommendations about which to support The Committee also plans to look at Mental Health issues that arose during the stakeholders meeting. Shawn Brennan will be attending future committee meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the County staff and the Primary Care Coalition meet next week, the committee will decide whether to have Dr. Galen present to the full COA or the H&W Committee. A suggestion was made that brochures and other promotional materials be made available for the CHIP launch. The Committee needs to examine and decide which bills are most supportive of the Committee's EOL agenda and inform Jack Sprague as soon as possible, as it's already late in the session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Policy 	<p>The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for December 3, Holiday Park, 8:45 -10 AM. All County legislators will be invited. (There is a possibility of cancellation/moving event should Holiday Park's parking lot be under renovation.). This is an opportunity for two-way communication between the COA and legislators</p>	<p>Talking points and handouts will be developed; arrangements will be made for refreshments</p>

	<p>and a chance to build important relationships. It also is a chance to focus on the Communities for a Lifetime, End of Life, and Financial Crimes legislation. There was discussion about whether or not to have a panel discussion; Jack asked that we postpone a panel until next year, as it is likely that there will be many new legislators and we need the time for general conversation instead.</p> <p>Jack reviewed the status of the various bills related to End of Life and Financial Crimes.</p> <p>Jack attended the Aging in Place symposium given by United Seniors of Maryland; Howard County presented on their AIP community's "Coordinating Center" and the Neighbor Ride Program, which has 250 volunteers and each averages about 6 rides each month. He passed out Howard County's literature.</p> <p>Leslie Marks has asked that the COA also focus on affordable senior housing, especially for the White Flint development plans. The COA may chose to focus on this in the future, but is supportive of the concept and perhaps at this time could develop a letter or response requesting that affordable senior housing be part of the White Flint plans.</p>	<p>Roland Stanley from Parks and Planning will be at the November COA meeting and we can send him the proposal and ask for his input on the White Flint issue.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominating Committee 	<p>Alan, Spence, and Mona serve on the committee; they have nominated Grace to become First Vice Chair when Alan leaves the Commission in December. All other officers will remain in their current positions. The Committee also will interview applicants for the Commission.</p>	
<p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presentation to the HHS Committee 	<p>Alan made a presentation to the HHS Committee about general policies that affect seniors (while other presenters talked about specific programs.) We will use other opportunities to talk about specific program when we present to the Council and County</p>	

	<p>Executive later in the fiscal year. Mr. Leventhal voiced a concern that some seniors may be moving here just to access the County's many services, which has budget implications.</p> <p>The Community Development Advisory Committee was supportive of the COA approach to focus on policy rather than program, and asked that we send them a copy of the COA letter to Mr. Leventhal.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Subcabinet meeting 	<p>Uma has asked departments to develop at least two measures to evaluate progress in implementing senior summit recommendations.</p> <p>The subcabinet will coordinate more fully with Park and Planning on housing, and wants to address emergency planning (particularly as related to PEPCO during the power outage this past summer).</p> <p>There have been more than 50,000 calls to the new 311 number; eighty percent of those are requesting information rather than services.</p> <p>The transportation group has developed a new pamphlet on transportation options for seniors but has no money to print it. However, the Vital Living Committee and the libraries will work as partners to help disseminate the information.</p> <p>In response to a COA request, UMA said the COA cannot sit as a full participating member of the subcabinet; however, COA attendance at every meeting is desirable.</p>	<p>Elaine will meet with the County Executive and Gabe and Uma to discuss fuller COA participation and attention to the COA Call to Action.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial services round table 	<p>Odile reported on a financial services roundtable she attended in which national organizations, government, and retirement organizations and investment firms participated. Different parts of the country are taking different measures to protect seniors against financial crime. Some states are required to report any suspicious bank activity directly to Adult Protective Services. The roundtable hopes to launch a 5-year public education campaign to educate seniors about this issue.</p>	<p>The public Policy Committee is interested in this topic and is following legislation related to this issue.</p>
<p>Community Foundation Presentation</p>	<p>Jay, Uma, and Diane attended a Foundation meeting and presented statistics and other information about needs of County Seniors. Vivien and others suggested a need to personalize some of the statistics with real life stories; to strengthen the appeal.</p>	<p>Elaine will talk with Jay about a future meeting with Sally Rudney. Odile will resend COA members a copy of Jay's presentation.</p>
<p>Budget Priorities</p>	<p>Elaine raised the issue of how to strategize for development for budget priorities; a document outlining an approach was developed last year. The COA would like to know what programs Jay and Odile are most worried about, how much money is involved, and how many people will be hurt by the cuts (including those on waiting lists).</p> <p>In general, all prevention or non life-threatening programs could be at risk. The County is planning for 10 percent cuts. If the ambulance fee initiative is defeated, another \$14 million will be cut. There has been conflicting publicity about this issue and the public is justifiably confused. Some members stated that the pain should be shared equally across age groups and not fall disproportionately on seniors.</p> <p>There will be a USM rally in January to keep funding levels for the State Department of Aging.</p>	<p>Odile will resend the budget process document to COA members.</p> <p>Jay and Odile will provide the COA with an outline of their most pressing concerns for COA consideration.</p> <p>When we discuss programs at the February presentations, the COA might want to ask for stakeholder support.</p>

COA Bank Account	Vivien has closed the savings account and moved all monies to a free checking account. There currently is \$1456.35 in the account.	COA members should submit any invoices for repayment to Elaine, who will give them to Vivien.
Holiday party		Vivien will organize this again this year.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.